AL MA'HADUL ISLAMI

MAJOR SIGNS

Before The Day Of



Maulana Ahmad Ali

Major Signs Before The Day of JUDGEMENT

Maulana Ahmad Ali

Major Signs Before The Day Of Judgement

First Published : Rajab 1420 H (October 1999)

Published By:

Al Ma'hadul Islami
40 Greaves Street
Bradford
West Yorkshire
BD5 5PE

Telephone : 01274 575600

By Maulana Ahmad Ali

Contents

Introduction

All praise is due to Allah. We praise him, ask of him, and seek his forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evils of ourselves and mischief's of our deeds. Whomsoever Allah guides, cannot be misguided and whomsoever Allah misguides cannot be guided.
Peace and blessings be upon the Final Messenger Muhammad (s), on his family and his noble companions Ameen.

Belief in Doomsday is one of the fundamentals and pillars of faith. It is the day when everyone is to get the recompense and punishment for one's works and has to go to heaven or hell according to one's deeds. This is the reason each and every Prophet warned his people of the Day of Judgement.

As for the knowledge of the time of Qiyamah, it has not been given to any angel or Prophet. Nobody besides Allah knows when the final hour is.

The Quran states, 'O Prophet the infidels ask you about the time of the Qiyamah. So tell them that it's knowledge is with Allah only. (Surah Luqman)

However certain events are going to take place prior to the coming of the final hour. These events are known as the Signs of Qiyamah. All the Prophets informed their people of the signs of the final hour. Our Prophet Muhammad (s) being the last and the seal of prophets, knowing that Doomsday is to come upon this very ummah, explained clearly and in considerable detail the signs of the final hour to the extent that sometimes He (s) would lecture his companions all day on this subject.

Abu Zaid (R.A) says, 'The Holy Prophet (s) sat down on the pulpit after the Fajar Prayer and began to deliver a long sermon be-

the time of the Zuhr prayer came. After saying the Zuhr prayer He again sat on the pulpit and began the sermon, which continued till the Asr prayer. After the Asr prayer He resumed the sermon so much so that the sun set. He related whatever happened in the past and also related in detail whatever is to happen in the future. Those amongst us who had good memories retained many things.'

(Muslim)

The signs of the final hour can be divided into two groups.

1) Minor signs

Minor signs are events of normal nature prophesied by our Prophet Muhammad (s) to take place before Qiyamah like the consumption of alcohol, lifting of knowledge and prevalence of ignorance and immorality and signs of this nature. The majority of the minor signs have appeared while some are occurring and some will appear with the major signs.

2) Major signs

Major signs are events of extraordinary nature prophesied by our Prophet (s) to take place before Qiyamah like all the events mentioned in the following hadith narrated by Hudhaifa ibn Usayd that the Prophet (s) said, 'The last hour will not arrive till you have seen ten signs. He (s) then mentioned the Smoke, Dajaal, Beast, Rising of the Sun from the place of it's setting, the Descent of Eesa, Ya'juj Ma'juj, Three Landslides, one in the East, one in the West and one in the Arabian Peninsula and after that a Fire would spread from Yemen and drive the people to their place of gathering.'

(Muslim)

This book written by the Ulama of this Institute is a concise summary of only the major events leading up to the Day of Judgement. Each of the following signs: Mahdi, Dajaal, Descension of Eesa, Ya'juj Ma'juj, Landslides, Smoke, Rising of the Sun from the West, Beast and the Fire are explained in detail. The supporting evidences are written at the end of every section and have been taken from various authentic hadith collections.

All Praise belongs to Allah, Lord of all the worlds.

The Mahdi

The Coming of Imaam Mahdi(s) is one of the signs of Qiyamah as is the belief of the Ahlus-Sunnah and he has yet to appear.

Abdullah-bin-Masood (R.A) has reported that the Prophet (s) said, "The world will not pass away before the Arabs are ruled by a man (referring to Mahdi) of my family whose name will be the same as mine."
(Abu Daud)

However, many people in the past falsely claimed to be Imaam Mahdi. One of these false claimants was Mohd-bin-Tomart, a tyrant who spread corruption and even buried some of his companions because they didn't believe that he was the Mahdi described by the Ahadith of Prophet (s). Some believe it was Mohd-bin-al Askari who disappeared at the age of 5 and went into hiding and has been hiding for 10 centuries. Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (The Cursed) was also one of those who claimed to be the Mahdi as well as many other people. Besides those mentioned there were many others who claimed the office of Mahdi, the most recent being somebody from Manchester who claimed the position for himself.

It should be noted that none of the above or anybody else who claimed to be the Mahdi in the past fulfilled the conditions laid down by the Prophet (s).

A list of some of the signs which will precede Imaam Mahdi and some that describe him have been gathered in this book so that we Muslims are not misled to believe in somebody claiming to be the Mahdi who in reality is a blatant liar.

Signs That Will Precede Him

1) A General Sign

There are many signs that will precede him; a general and very important sign is that he will come at a time when there is great confusion, intense disputes and violent deaths. When people are afflicted by disturbances and experiencing great fear. Calamities will fall upon the people, so much so that a man shall not find shelter to shelter him from oppression. There will be many battles and fitnaas before his appearance. Every time a fitnaa has come to an end, another will start, spread and intensify. The people will be troubled to such an extent that they will long for death. It is then that Imaam Mahdi will be sent.

Abu Saeed al-Khudri has reported that the Messenger of Allah (s) said, "He will be sent at a time of intense disputes and differences among people and earthquakes ." (Ahmad)

2) The Double Eclipse In Ramadan

Mohammad bin Ali reports that "For our Mahdi, there are two signs and since the birth of the universe these events have never taken place. The two signs are that there will be a lunar eclipse on the first night of Ramadan and a solar eclipse in the middle of Ramadan.' (Darequtni)

The above hadith is weak due to some of its narrators.

3) The Battle in Mina

Before Imaam Mahdi emerges an inter-tribal fight will take place. In the same year Hajji's will be looted and a battle will erupt in Mina in which many people will be killed.

Amr-bin-Shuaib reported from his grandfather that the Messenger of Allah (s) said, "In Dhul-Qada (Islamic month) the tribes will fight, Hajji's will be looted and there will be a battle in Mina in which many people will be slain and blood will flow until it runs

over the Jamra-tul-aqba. Their companion (referring to Imaam Mahdi) will flee to a point between the corner and the Maqaam and will be forced to accept people's allegiance."

(Al-Fitan Nuaim-b-Hammad)

4) The Euphrates Will Disclose A Mountain Of Gold

The final hour will not come until the river Euphrates (which flows through Syria and Iraq and finally opens in the Gulf) will disclose a mountain of gold over which people will fight and die. It should be noted that this is a sign, which will precede Imaam Mahdi only according to some Ulama. Abu Haraira (R.A) reported that the Messenger of Allah (s) said, "The hour shall not occur until the Euphrates will disclose a mountain of gold over which people will fight. Ninety-nine out of each hundred shall be killed and every one of them will say 'Perchance I shall be the one to succeed." (Muslim)

In another narration we have been told that whoever is present at the time when the Euphrates discloses a mountain of gold should not take the gold.

5) Emergence of the Suffyani

The Suffyani (a descendant of Abu Sufyan) will emerge before Imam Mahdi from the depths of Damascus. According to some weak narration's his name will be Urwa bin Muhammad and his Kuniya 'Abu-Utba'. The Ahadith regarding the Suffyani specify that he is a tyrant who will spread corruption and mischief on the earth before Imaam Mahdi. He will be such a tyrant that he will kill the children and rip open the bellies of women. When he hears about the Mahdi, he will send an army to seize and kill him. However the Earth will swallow this army before it even reaches Imaam Mahdi.

Abu Huraira (R.A) has narrated that the Prophet (s) said, "A man will emerge from the depths of Damascus. He will be called Suffyani. Most of those who follow him will be from the tribe of

Kalb. He will kill by ripping the stomachs of women and even kill the children. A man from my family will appear in the Haram, the news of his advent will reach the Suffyani and he will send forth one of his armies. He (referring to Imaam Mahdi) will defeat them. They will then travel with whoever remains until they come to a desert and they will be swallowed. None will be saved except the one who had informed the others about them." (Mustadrak)

6) The Emergence of Haris-Al-Harrath and Mansur

Hadrat Ali reported that the Prophet (s) said, "There will be a man from Transoxania who will be called Harith-Harrath and a man called Mansur will be at his vanguard. He will give abode to the family of Mohammad (referring to Imam Mahdi) just as the Quraish gave abode to the Prophet (s)." (Mishkat)

7) An army will perish in Baidah

Once he has appeared an army that has come to fight him will perish in Baidah (a flat piece of land next to Madina facing the direction of Makkah).

Umme-Salama (R.A) reported that the Prophet (s) said, "There shall be differences and intense disputes at the time of the death of a Khalifh. Then a man from the inhabitants of Madina (referring to Imaam Mahdi) will come out and flee to Makkah (so that he does not get caught in this dispute and is not made the Khalifh). Some Makkans will come to him and take him out though he will be unwilling. They will then make him accept their Bayat between the Black Stone and the Place of Ibrahim (as). An army will then be sent to fight him from Syria, however it will perish in Baidah, between Makkah and Madina. When the people see and hear about this event, the awliya (God fearing people) of Syria and Iraq will make Bayat with him." (Abu Daud)

8) A star with a luminous tail will rise from the east before his emergence. (Al-Iza'ah).

9) A voice in Ramadan will awaken sleepers and alarm those that are awake. (Ibid)

10) The emergence of al-A`hraj al-Kindi, Abqa and Ashab before Imaam Mahdi. (Ibid)

11) The Earth will swallow a village near Damascus. (Ibid)

12) An army with black banners will come from the East. (Ibid)

There are many other signs which will precede Imaam Mahdi. For more information read the relevant books.

The Signs of Imaam Mahdi

1) He will be from the progeny of the Prophet (s) and descendent of Fatimah (R.A). Umme Salama (R.A) reported: I heard the Prophet of Allah saying, "The Mahdi will appear from my progeny, from the descendants of Fatimah." (Abu Daud)
2) His name will be Muhammad or Ahmad and his father's name will be Abdullah. Ibne Masood (R.A) reported that the Prophet (s) said, "If there remains in the world but a day, the mighty Allah will greatly prolong that day till he will send there in a man from me or from the members of my house. His name will be similar to my name and his father's name to my father's name." (Abu Daud)
3) He will resemble the Prophet (s) in character. Hadrat Ali (R.A) once looked at his son and remarked, "This son of mine is Saiyid who was named by the Prophet (s) and soon from his loins will come forth a man by the name of your Prophet (s) and who will resemble him in conduct but not in appearance." (Abu Daud)
4) He will have a shiny forehead and a high bridge nose. Abu Saeed reported that the Prophet (s) said, "The Mahdi will appear

from me, shining of forehead, long of nose." (Abu Daud).

5) Once Hadrat Ali (R.A) was asked regarding his description. He replied, "He is a well built youth of average height and a handsome face, his hair reaches his shoulders and the light of his face is contrasted by the darkness of his hair and beard." (Al-Isha`ah)
6) He will be slow of speech (a slight stutter) and when he is delayed, he will strike his left thigh with his right hand." (Al-Isha`ah)
7) He will appear from the east. Thawban (R.A) reported that the Prophet (s) said, "Three men will be killed at the place where your treasure is. Each of them will be the son of a Khalifah but none of them will get hold of the treasure. Then the black banners will come out of the east, and they will slaughter you in a way that has never been seen before. If you see him give him your allegiance, even if you have to crawl over ice, because he is the Khalifah of Allah, the Mahdi." (Ibne Majah)

Only some of the signs that will precede Imaam Mahdi and of the Mahdi himself have been gathered in this book. The true Mahdi, the one referred to in the Ahadith of Prophet (s) as one of the signs of Qiyamah, is the one in whom the pre-mentioned signs are found.

His Emergence and the People's Bayat

After the death of a Khalifh there shall be intense dispute and difference of opinion in whom should become the next Khalifh. Fearing he may get caught up in the dispute and made the Khalifh, Imaam Mahdi will flee from Madina to Makkah. However, to his surprise on reaching Makkah, some Makkans will bring him out of his house against his will and take him to Masjid Haraam and 313 as has been mentioned in the hadith reported by Imam Hakim in Al-

Mustadrak will force him to accept their Bayat between the Rukn (corner of the Ka'aba containing the black stone) and the place of Ibrahim. The news of his allegiance will quickly spread and thus an army from Syria will be sent to fight him. However, no harm will come to Imaam Mahdi nor his followers who will be supported by Allah. The earth will swallow up this army before it can get near to the Imaam in a place called Baidah (a flat piece of land between Makkah and Madina). After seeing and hearing about this extraordinary event and sign, the Awliya (pious saints) of Syria and Iraq will come to Imaam Mahdi and swear allegiance to him between the black stone and the Maqam (the place of Ibrahim which is near the Ka'aba). (The above content can be found in the Hadith of Umme Salama/Abu Daud)

The First Battle

His first battle will be against the tribe of Kalb. A short period after the eminent saints of Syria and Iraq have sworn allegiance; a man from the Quraish will rise whose maternal uncle's belong to the Kalb tribe and he will send an army to fight Imaam Mahdi. However this army will be overcome and defeated. This will be his first victory.

The Great War

(The author of al-Isha`ah has mentioned that this battle will take place in Imam Mahdi's time).

Imam Mahdi will have to fight many battles, the most important and difficult being the battle against the Christians in which a large number of Muslims will be martyred.

Yusayr bin Jabir said, "A red sandstorm erupted in the city of Kufah. Afterwards, a man came shouting and repeating the same words, 'O Abdullah bin Mas'ud! The hour has come.' He (Yusayr) then said that he sat up after he was leaning (on his side) and said,

"The hour will not arrive until no inheritance will be divided and no war possessions will bring about satisfaction." He pointed with his hand towards Ash-Sham saying, "An enemy will gather its forces against the followers of Islam." I said, "Do you mean *Ar-Rum*? He said "Yes." Then, during this war, fierce fighting will occur. Muslims will ask for a volunteer expedition that will vie to die or return victorious and the expedition will perish. Muslims will then (in the second day) ask for a volunteer expedition that will vie to die or return victorious. They will fight until the night separates them. Both sides will return to their camps not yet victorious and the expedition will perish.

Muslims will then (in the third day) ask for a volunteer expedition that will vie to die or return victorious. They will fight until the night separates them. Both sides will return to their camps not yet victorious and the expedition will perish. In the fourth day, the rest of the Muslim forces will turn against them (the disbelievers) and Allah will defeat them (the disbelievers). They will suffer casualties never heard of before or he said, "Never seen before, even birds flying near them will not pass without falling down dead.

Afterwards, sons of the same father (from the Muslim side), who were near a hundred, will count the survivors and will find out that only one of them survived. Therefore, what war possessions will bring satisfaction and what inheritance will be divided? While they are doing this they will hear of an even bigger calamity; that is, a man will scream amongst them that the Dajaal has appeared among their families which they left behind. They will discard what they have in their hands and proceed. They will send ten horsemen as an expedition force.

The Messenger of Allah (s) said, "I know their names and their father's names and the colours of their horses. They will be the best horsemen on the face of the Earth," or (he said) "(They) Will be amongst the best horsemen on the face of the Earth."

(Muslim)

The cause of this great battle will be the Christians. The Christians and Muslims as allies together will conquer a third en-

emy. However, the Christians will act treacherously as they will claim the victory on the strength of their religion, thus the Muslims will be driven to arms and will fight them.

Dhu Makhbar said, " I heard the Apostle of Allah (may peace be upon him) say, "You will make a secure peace with the Byzantines, then you will fight an enemy behind you, and you will be victorious, take the booty, and be safe. You will then return and alight in a meadow with mounds and one of the Christians will raise the cross and say, 'The cross has conquered'. One of the Muslims will become angry and smash it, and the Byzantines will act treacherously and prepare for the battle."

Conquest of Constantinople

The Great War between the Christians and the Muslims will result in the Muslims conquering Constantinople (which is modern day Istanbul) without arms but by the sheer force of Takbeer (Allahu Akbar).

Abu Hurairah reported that the Prophet (s) said, "Have you heard of a town of which a part is in sea?"

"Yes" said they. He said: 'The last hour shall not occur till 70,000 of the children of Isaac shall attack it. When they come to it, they (Muslims) will not fight with arms, nor throw arrows. They will only say: there is no god but Allah, Allah is the greatest, and then one of its sides will fall down. They will recite for the second time: there is no god but Allah, Allah is the greatest, and then another of its sides will fall down. After that they will say for the third time: there is no god but Allah and Allah is the greatest, and then it will be opened to them and they will enter and acquire booty. While they will be dividing the booty, a proclaimer will come to them and proclaim: 'Verily Dajaal has come out.' Then they will leave everything and return.'

(Muslim)

It should be noted that the conquests will take place in a very short period. Abdullah-b-Busr has reported that the Messenger of Allah (s) has said: 'Between the Great War and the conquest of the city (Constantinople) there will be six years, and the Dajaal shall appear in the seventh year.' (Abu-Daud)

Blessings at the time of Imaam Mahdi

Once again the Quran and Sunnah will govern the people, this time by the rightly guided Khalifh, Imaam Mahdi. Islam will gain an upper hand and will be firmly established in the land. The oppression, tyranny, and darkness that prevailed all over the globe will be replaced with justice, peace and equity. The smile, which was long forgotten, will be restored on the Muslim faces and the inhabitants of the Heaven and Earth will be pleased with him. Everybody will be happy to the extent that even birds and wild animals will rejoice in his rule. Heaven will send rain profusely, livestock will be in abundance, land will become fertile, the earth will become green and sprout with abundant fruit and vegetation.

(The above content has been taken from various hadith, which can be found in Abu-Daud and from the hadith narrated by Abu-Saeed al-Khudri in Musnad Ahmad.)

Due to the booty gained from the various conquests everyone will have so much wealth that an eyebrow will not even be raised at somebody else's wealth. Callers will proclaim in the street, "Is anybody in need of anything?" Nobody will respond except one person. In the latter part of Abu-Saeed al-Khudri's hadith it is mentioned "A caller will call 'Who is in need of wealth?' Only one person will stand (and respond to the call and say I am in need of wealth) he will be told to go to the treasurer and tell him that the Mahdi orders you to give me some wealth. 'Gather and take it', he will be told. (He

will begin to put it in his lap, when he realises that nobody else has come and he was the only one) he will regret it and say 'I was the greediest from amongst the Ummah of Muhammad (s)'. The narrator says, he will return it but it will not be accepted and it will be said to him that we do not accept what we have given.

(Ahmad)

Abu Saeed al-Khudri has also reported that the Prophet (s) said regarding the Mahdi; that a man will come to him and say, 'Give me, give me'. Then he will spread his cloth and put in it as much as he can carry.

His Reign as a Khalifh

There are different narrations regarding his reign as a Khalifh. Some traditions indicate that his reign will be seven years like the hadith of Umme Salama in Abu Daud, "He will remain seven years, then die, and Muslims will pray over him." (Abu Daud) Other traditions indicate that his reign will last seven, eight or nine years like the Hadith of Abu Saeed in Mustadrak.

Due to different traditions the period of Imaam Mahdi's reign is disputed. Many Scholars have taken seven years to be the period of his reign due to the fact that the Ahadith which indicate seven years are the most authentic. Other Scholars like Shah Rafi-ud-din, after careful analysis have concluded that the first seven years of his reign will pass without worry, he will spend the eighth preparing and fighting the Dajaal and spend the ninth with Prophet Jesus (as). He will thereafter die, Prophet Jesus (as) will read his funeral prayer and bury him.

Dajaal

The emergence of the Dajaal is the most important sign as his trial and fitna will be the biggest ever seen on the face of the earth and even those firm in faith will be shaken.

The Messenger of Allah (s) said, "Between the creation of Prophet Adam (as) and the coming of the last hour, there will arise no matter more serious than the Dajaal." (Imran-b-Hussain/ Muslim)

Due to the severity of this turmoil, every Prophet from the first to the last warned and informed his people about the Dajaal and his turmoil. (Anas / Bukhari, Muslim)

The Dajaal will appear once the Muslim army have conquered Constantinople and reached Syria. Emerging from the east, moving from city to city he will perform unusual feats and cause fitna wherever he goes. Before we move onto his trials many important questions need to be answered. 'Is he alive?' 'Which signs will precede him?' 'How will we recognise him?' and so forth.

The story of Hadrat Tamim Dari and the Dajaal

The story of Tamim Dari which follows, answers the first and most important question, is the Dajaal alive? and whether Hadrat Tamim Dari and his companions have seen him when they were thrown by the waves on to some remote Island.

Fatimah-bint-Qais reported, "I heard the proclaimer of the Messenger of Allah (s) proclaiming (for) 'Congregational Prayer'. I

went to the mosque and prayed with the Prophet (s). When he finished his prayer, he sat upon the pulpit smiling and said, 'Let every man remain in his seat.' He then asked, 'Do you know why I have called you together?' They replied, 'Allah and his Messenger know best.' The Prophet (s) said, 'By Allah, I have not called you together for hope or for fear, I have called you together because Tamim ad-Dari who was a Christian, came and embraced Islam.

He narrated a story to me, which agreed with the account I had given to you about the Dajaal. He informed me that he had embarked upon a sea-boat with thirty men of Lakhm and Jozam. Then the sea waves played with them for a month and threw them on to an island when the sun was about to set. They sat in a small side boat and landed on the Island. A beast with very coarse hair met them. They could not tell its front from its back due to its excessive hair. They asked, 'Woe to thee! Who art thou?" It replied, 'I am a spy. Go to this man in the monastery, as he is eager to receive the information you bring.'

Tamim Dari said, 'When it named a man for us, we fled away from it lest it might be the devil. Then we hurriedly went on until we entered the monastery and found a big-bodied man whom we had never seen before. He was firmly tied up, his hands tied to his neck, the place between his knees, and joints tied up with iron chains.' We asked, 'Woe to thee! What are thou?' He replied, 'You have the power to get my information. Inform me about yourselves.'

They replied, 'We are people from Arabia, we embarked upon a sea boat, but the sea waves played with us for a month and threw us onto this island. A beast of coarse hairs met us and said, 'I am a spy. Go to the man in the monastery.' So we approached you hurriedly. He asked, 'Tell me about the trees of Baisan. Do they bear fruit?.' 'Yes' We replied. He said, 'Behold! Soon they will not yield fruit.' He asked, 'Inform me of the lake of Tiberias. Is there water in it?' We replied, 'It is full of water.' He informed us, 'Soon its water will disappear.' He then asked, 'Inform me of the fountain of Zugara. Is there water in it and do its inhabitants irrigate with the water of the fountain?' 'Yes, it is full of water and it's inhabitants irrigate

from its water. He asked, 'Inform me of the Prophet of the illiterates. What does he do?' We said, 'He has just come out of Makkah and gone to Yathrib.' He asked, 'Have the Arabs fought with him?' 'Yes' We replied. He asked, 'How did he treat them?' We informed him that he had got the upper hand of those of the Arabs who opposed him and they obeyed him. He said, 'Behold! It is better for them if they obey him. As for myself I am certainly the Anti-Christ and it is near that an order will be passed for me to come out. I shall then come out and travel the world. I shall leave no village at which I shall not land within 40 nights except Makkah and Taibah, which will be forbidden to me. Whenever I wish to enter one of the two, an angel with a sword in his hand will encounter me and prevent me therefrom. There will be angels on every side to guard it. The apostle of Allah struck his pulpit with his staff and said, 'This is Taibah meaning Madina. Behold! Did I not tell you?' 'Yes' they replied. 'Behold, he is in the Syrian sea or sea of Yemen; no, rather he is from the eastern direction. He then pointed out with his hand towards the East.' (Muslim)

Signs that will precede him

The coming of Imaam Mahdi

In light of many Ahadith the Ulama of the Ahlus-Sunnah are of the opinion that Imaam Mahdi will come before the Dajaal and the Dajaal will appear in the later parts of Imaam Mahdi's reign.

The Great Famine

There will be a famine for three years before his appearance. In the first year of the famine the heaven will withhold one third of its rain and the earth one third of its crops. In the second year of the famine heaven will withhold two thirds of its rain and the earth will withhold two thirds of its crops. In the third year there will not be a single drop of rain and not a single thing will grow and thus all the

animals with hoofs and biting teeth will die and the Tasbeeh will suffice the believers hunger. (Asma-b-Yazeed-Mishkat)

His parents

His father will be tall and thin and his nose will be pointed like a beak while his mother will be fat with two long hands. They will both remain thirty years without a child. After thirty years a one eyed son with biting teeth and of little benefit will be born to them whose heart will remain awake while his eyes will sleep.

(Abu Bakara-Tirmidhi)

General signs that will precede him

From the hadith of Umme Shareek which can be found in Muslim we could conclude the Arabs will be less in number. At the same time we can conclude from the hadith of Jabir-b-Abdullah which can be found in An-Nihaya that religious learning will be at a low and very few people will be aquainted with religious principles and doctrines and thus ignorance will prevail.

Signs in the Dajaal

Physical description

The Dajaal is a young[1] fat[2] man, wheatish[3] in complexion with a broad chest[4] and biting teeth[5]. Resembling Abdul Uzzah bin Qatan[6] from the tribe of Khuza'a his head is covered[7] with curly hair[8] with the letters "Ka" "Fa" "Ra"[9] written between his eyes which every believer will be able to clearly see and read literate or illiterate, he has a shining forehead[10] and defect in both eyes. His left eye has a swelling pupil[11] while he is blind[12] from the right. He has a brisk walk[13] and no children[14]

Footnote:

1) Nawwas-b-Samaan / Muslim
2) Ibne-Umar / Bukhari / Muslim
3) Abdullah-b-Mugaffal / Kanzul-Ummal
4) Abu Huraira / Musnad Ahmad
5) Abu Bakara / Tirmidhi
6) Nawwas-b-Samaan / Muslim
7) Hudaifah / Muslim
8) Nawwas-b-Samaan / Muslim
9) Hudaifah / Muslim
10) Abu Huraira / Musnad Ahmad
11) Hudaifah / Muslim
12) Ibne Umar / Bukhari / Muslim
13) Ubiadah / Abu Daud
14) Abu Saeed al-Khudri / Muslim

His Emergence

Conquering Constantinople with Takbir, the Muslims will begin to take the booty. While they are distributing the war possessions a proclaimer will proclaim that the Dajaal has appeared and causing fitna in your homes. On hearing this cry the Muslims will leave the booty and head towards Syria[1]. It will come to their knowledge that this was a false rumour. However after reaching Syria the Dajaal will truly emerge. He will come out from a road between Syria and Iraq[2] and his emergence will become known in Isfahan[3] at a place called Yahoodah. Riding a white ass[4], the two ears of which will be forty hands apart, 70 000 Jews[5] of Isfahan will follow him with hoods on their heads. Also accompanied by Devils[6] and Jewish magicians[7] he will first claim Prophethood[8] and then Godhood. Travelling as fast as those clouds which are driven by the winds he will travel to east and west entering every country, carrying out murders, pillage, devastation and performing unusual feats wherever he goes[9].

Footnote:
1) Abu Huraira / Muslim
2) Nawwas-b-Samaan / Muslim
3) Anas / Al-Fathur-Rabbani
4) Abu Huraira / Baihaqi
5) Anas / Muslim
6) Jabir-b-Abdullah / An-Nihayah
7) Ibne Abbas / Kanzul-Ummal
8) Abu Umamah / Ibn Majah

Dajaal's Turmoil

Dajaal's Deception

Two angels resembling two Prophets, one on either side will accompany him. This will be to test mankind. Hence Dajaal will ask, "Am I not your lord? Do I not give life and death?" One of the angels will reply, "You are a liar." However nobody will be able to hear this reply besides the other angel. The second angel addressing the first angel will say, "You are speaking the truth." Every body will hear what this second angel said and will think that an angel is testifying that the Dajaal is Allah though in reality this second angel was addressing the first and agreeing with his reply that you are speaking the truth that the Dajaal is certainly a liar.

(Narrated by Safeena-Musnad Ahmad)

He will come to a Bedouin whose parents have passed away and will say to him, "Will you believe that I am your Lord if I bring your parents back to life." He will reply, "Yes." The devils that are accompanying him will take the form of his parents and after resembling his parents will say to him, "Oh child believe in him and follow him, he is your Lord.' The Bedouin will be deceived and forced into believing him. (Abu Umamah/Ibne Majah)

He will come to another Bedouin and say, "Will you believe in me as your Lord if I bring your camel back to life?" "Yes", he will reply. He will make a figure for him like his camel, which will have a beautiful odour and a big hump. (Asma-b-Yazeed /Mishkat)

He will have water and fire with him. As for that which the people will see as water, in reality will be fire, which will burn and as for that which people will see as fire, in reality will be cold, sweet water. The Prophet's (s) advice is: "Whoever meets the Dajaal and sees the water and the fire, he should fall in the fire and not the wa-

ter, as the fire in reality is water and the water in reality is fire."
(Hudaifah /Mishkat)

Believers in Allah will face hardship while the believers in Dajaal will temporarily rejoice.

He will come to people and tell them he is Allah and they will believe in him. The sky on his order will pour rain and the earth will grow crops for these people. Their animals will graze on this land and return to them in the evening with large udders and their flanks full. He will then proceed to some other people and call them but they will refuse to believe him. Without forcing them he will leave and carry on with his mission. However, when these true believers wake up in the morning they will find that they are penniless and all their properties have been destroyed.
(Nawwas-b-Samaan/Muslim)

The Earth will disclose treasure at his command

Passing by a place in ruins, he will order it to take out its hidden treasure. The earth will immediately take out its treasure and this treasure will literally follow him wherever he goes like bees following the queen bee. (Nawwas-b-Samaan/Muslim)

Dajaal faces Opposition

On hearing about the Dajaal a true believer will head towards him. However, on the way he will be stopped by Dajaal's soldiers and asked where he is intending to go. Replying that he is going to meet the person who claims that he is Allah, the soldiers doubting him will ask, "Do you not believe in our Lord (Dajaal)?" He will reply there is nothing hidden about our Lord Allah so how can I take Dajaal as my Lord. Angry at his reply they will decide to kill him. But all of a sudden one of them will say, "Hasn't our Lord (Dajaal)

prohibited us from killing anyone without his permission?" Thus they will take him to the Dajaal. On seeing the Dajaal he will shout, "O people this is the Dajaal the Prophet (s) mentioned and warned the believers of." Dajaal will order to kill him. He will be placed on his belly and severely beaten. He will be asked, "Do you still not believe in him?" "No! You are the lying Dajaal" he will reply.

The true believer will then be sawn into two pieces, the Dajaal will walk in between the two pieces and address him, "Stand up." The true believer will become alive and stand up in one piece. Yet again he will be asked, "Do you now believe in me?" He will reply, "It has only added to my insight concerning you that you are really the Dajaal." The believer will then proclaim, "O people he will not be able to do anything to any man after me." The Dajaal angry at his refusal will grab hold of him and place a knife between his neck and throat to slaughter him but he will be unsuccessful as Allah will place copper in that area and the knife will find no way to penetrate. The Dajaal will grab hold of his hands and legs and throw him into the fire. However, the fire will turn into a pleasant garden for him. This person will be the greatest martyr in the eyes of Allah and achieve the highest position due to his first death, which was caused by severance of the body in two pieces.

(Abu Saeed al-Khudri /Muslim)

Dajaal's Trickery

Doctors and surgeons are not able to restore the eyesight of those born blind or cure the leper. Dajaal will be able to cure those born blind, restore their eyesight and cure the leper.

(Abdullah-b-Mugaffal-Kanzul-Ummal)

Dajaal's Greed

He will have a mountain of bread with him but he will only give bread to those that believe and follow him.

(Jabir-b-Abdullah-An-Nihaya)

Dajaal Lures the Women

The Dajaal will make a stop at a place called Markanat, near Taif. On hearing about his arrival the womenfolk will rush towards him, the men will be forced to tie their mothers, daughters, and sisters fearing they will believe in him and get caught up in his fitna.

(Ibne Umar-Musnad Ahmad)

Safe Haven of Makkah and Madina

The Dajaal will remain on earth for 40 days, the first of which will be a year long, the second a month, the third a week, and the remaining 37 days like our normal days, moving from one city to another causing fitna[1]. Finally he will proceed towards Makkah and Madina[2] but he will be unable to enter these holy cities as it is forbidden for him to enter these two holy cities, Masjid Tur and Masjid-al-Aqsa[3]. Every time he tries to enter these holy places, angels guarding these holy cities with swords in their hands will encounter him and chase him away, leaving Dajaal stationed behind Uhud[4]. Meanwhile, earthquakes will hit Madina, thrice and all the hypocrites will be forced to leave[5].

Footnote:
1) Nawwas-b-Samaan / Muslim
2) Fatimah-b-Qais / Muslim
3) Junadah-b-umaiya / Al-Fathur-Rabbani
4) Abu-Huraira / Bukhari
5) Amr-b-Sufyan / Ad-Durrul-Manthur

Death

Losing hope of entering these holy places, Dajaal will turn towards Syria. Imaam Mahdi will already have arranged a Muslim army and will be on the verge of leading the Muslims in morning prayer when Prophet Jesus (as) will descend and Kill the Dajaal.

(Abu-Umamah / Ibne Majah)

Protection from Dajaal

Recitation of Surah -Kahf

The recitation of Surah Kahf is a safe guard from the Dajaal's turmoil. The Prophet (s) said, "Whoever memorises the first ten verses of Surah Kahf will be safe from the Dajaal's Fitna."

(Abu-Darda / Muslim)

The Prophet (s) said, 'Whoever meets the Dajaal amongst you then he should recite the opening verse of Surah Kahf onto him."

(Nawwas-b-Samaan / Muslim)

Seeking Refuge in Allah

Whoever seeks Allah's refuge and protection from Dajaal's fitna especially in Salah, Inshallah will be protected.

The Prophet (s) would pray in Salah, "Oh Allah protect me from the punishment of the grave and protect me from Dajaal's fitna."

(Aisha / Bukhari / Muslim)

Staying miles apart

When the Dajaal appears one should stay as far away from him as possible. The Prophet (s) said, "Those who hear about the Dajaal should stay far from him. By Allah! A person will approach

him thinking him to be a believer, but on seeing his amazing feats he will become his follower." (Imran-b-Hussain / Abu Daud)

Safe Haven of Makkah and Madinah

One should try to migrate to Makkah or Madina, as he will not be able to enter these two holy cities. Thus one will be protected from his fitna. (Fatimah-b-Qais / Muslim)

Knowledge of Allah's Attributes

One should seek Islamic knowledge especially knowledge of Allah's attributes. By possessing knowledge of Allah's attributes one will not be misled by the Dajaal. This knowledge teaches that Allah is perfect, can't be seen, and not in need of anything while the Dajaal is imperfect, can be seen by both believers and non-believers and in need of food and water.

Return Of Prophet Jesus (as)

Brief History of Prophet Jesus (as)

Due to the fact that the Jews had become deaf and blind to the words of God and deviated from the teachings of Moses and the right path, Allah honoured Jesus (as) with Prophethood and sent him as a messenger to the children of Israel. Bearing all hardships Prophet Jesus (as) spent all day and night conveying the message of Allah. Unfortunately, in spite of his tremendous effort the children of Israel did not respond and accept the message. Seeing that the poor and weak were becoming inclined towards him and fearing they would lose their leadership the Jews secretly tried to kill him. However Allah saved Prophet Jesus (as) from their wicked scheme and gave him greater dignity by raising him alive to the heavens.

Allah says in the Quran, "They did not kill him and nor did they crucify him but the resemblance of him (Jesus) was put over another man and those who differ there in, are in doubt. They have no certain knowledge. They are following nothing but conjecture for surely they did not kill him but Allah raised him up to him." (Surah Nisa)

Allah says in the Quran "When Allah says, Jesus; I will take thee to me and I will purify thee of the unbelievers"

(Surah A`li-Imran)

These verses clearly prove that the Jews did not kill Prophet Jesus (as) and that he was raised alive to the heavens. It is due to verses like those mentioned above and many authentic Ahadith we Muslims believe that Prophet Jesus (as) is alive in heaven at this moment in time. We further believe due to the following verses and authentic Ahadith that Prophet Jesus (as) will return before Qiyamah and his return is a major sign of Qiyamah.

Allah says in the Quran, "And he (son of Mary) shall be a

known sign for (the coming of) the hour." (Surah Zukhruf)

Ibne Abbas has said that the meaning of this verse is that Prophet Jesus's descent before Qiyamah is a sign of Qiyamah. (Ibne Abbas/ Musnad)

Allah says, "There is not a single section of the people of the book that will certainly believe in Jesus before his death and on the Day of Resurrection he will be a witness against them." (Surah Nisa) This verse clearly indicates that before the demise of Prophet Jesus everyone from the people of the book will believe in him. The Jews will disappear as Jews after his demise but at the present the Jews are very much there. The conclusion is clear that the Prophet Jesus has not died; if so all the Jews would have become believers, which they have not. He will return before Qiyamah and it is then that all the people of the book will believe in him.

Jabir (R.A) reported that the Messenger of Allah said, "A party of my followers will not cease to fight for victory until the Day of Resurrection. He said, then Jesus, son of Mary, will come down. Their Imaam will say, "Come and lead our prayer" He will reply, "Some of you are rulers over others on account of divine honour upon these people." (Muslim)

Abu Huraira (R.A) reported that the Messenger of Allah (s) said, "By the one whose hands my life is in, surely the son of Maryam will descend amongst you as a just ruler. He will destroy the cross, kill the swine and abolish the tax." (Bukhari)

Hadrat Hudaifah-b-Osaid reported: The Holy Prophet (s) suddenly came to us while we were talking. He asked, "What are you talking about?" They replied "We were talking about the last hour." Prophet (s) said, "It will never come until you see ten signs before it," He then mentioned the Smoke, the Dajaal, the Beast, the Rising of the Sun in its place of setting, the Descent of Jesus son of Mary and Ya'juj and Ma'juj. (Muslim)

Prophet Jesus's (s) Tasks

Prophet Jesus (as) will have three main tasks, when he descends on the Earth for the second time:

1) The first and most important will be that he will destroy the Dajaal.
2) Protect the Muslims from the barbarous tribes of Ya'juj and Ma'juj by taking them to Mount Tur and then Praying for their destruction.
3) Reign as a Khalifh according to the Quran and Sunnah and elevate Islam.

Prophet Jesus's (as) descent and the Killing of Dajaal

The Dajaal having failed to enter the holy city of Madina will proceed to Syria gathering his forces on the way.

Imaam Mahdi will have arranged the Muslim army and will be on the verge of leading the Muslims in the morning prayer (Abu Umamah/ Ibne-Majah) when Prophet Jesus (as) will descend to the white Minaret (Nawwas-b-Samaan/Muslim) in the east of Damascus, wearing two garments died with saffron, placing his hands on the wings of two angels.

All those that are present will recognise him, as he will look exactly like the description of the Prophet (s). Resembling the Sahabi Urwa bin Masood (Abu- Huraira/ Muslim) the colour of his skin will be reddish white (Ibne Abbas/ Bukhari), he will be well built and his hair will be soft and reach his ears. When he lowers his head, beads of perspiration will fall from it and when he raises his head, beads like pearls will scatter from it.

(Nawwas-b-Samaan/Muslim).

Every Kaafir who smells his sweet breath will die and his breath will reach as far as he can see. On seeing Prophet Jesus (as), Imaam Mahdi will take a couple of steps backwards so Prophet Jesus can lead the prayers however Prophet Jesus will place his hands on the Imaams shoulder and will say, "Go forward and lead the prayer as the Iqamah was made for you" thus Imaam Mahdi will lead the prayer. (Abu Umamah/ Ibne-Majah).

After the prayer Prophet Jesus (as) will say, "Open the gate". The gates will be opened and the Dajaal will be waiting behind it accompanied by an army of 70, 000 Jews, each armed with a sword and shield. The Dajaal on seeing Prophet Jesus among the Muslims will begin to dissolve like salt in water and will begin to flee. Prophet Jesus will say to him, "You will remain alive until I strike you with my spear." He will catch up with him at the Eastern gate of Ludd (Ludd is a mountain in Syria. Some say that it is a village in Jerusalem, and some say that it is a village in Palestine) and then Prophet Jesus (as) will kill him with a small spear.

The Muslims will thereafter defeat and wipe out Dajaal's army. The Jews will not be able to hide behind anything on that day. Every time they try to hide behind a stone, a wall, a tree (except a *boxthorn tree*) or animal. Allah will make these things speak and they will say, "O Muslim, O servant of Allah there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him."

The Wisdom in the Descension of Prophet Jesus (as)

The Ulama of the Ahlus - Sunnah have given many different reasons in the returning of Prophet Jesus (as) to this world for the second time. A few are listed below.

1) The Jews believe that they had killed Prophet Jesus (as), Allah will send him before the end of time to prove that they

had not killed him and that he is alive. It is he who will kill the Jews and their leader Dajaal. (Fathul-Bari)

2) Some Ulama have said that Prophet Jesus found many virtues of the followers of Prophet Muhammad (s) in the bible and thus he prayed to Allah to make him amongst the Ummah of Prophet Muhammad (s). Allah answered his prayer and he will return for the second time as one of the followers of Prophet Muhammad (s). (Ibne-Khathir)
3) It is the Law of Allah that anything that is created from the Earth has to be buried in the Earth and not the Heavens. Thus he will return to the Earth for the second time, kill the Dajaal, live for a period of time and then he will die a natural death and will be buried with the Prophet (s). (Ashratus-Sa'ah).

Prophet Jesus and the Ya'juj Ma'juj (Gog and Magog)

A short period after Prophet Jesus has killed the Dajaal, the two mighty tribes of Ya'ju and Ma'juj will appear, causing murder, pillage and devastation wherever they go. The emergence of Ya'juj and Ma'juj is also another major sign of Qiyamah. Through the invocation of Prophet Jesus (as) they will be destroyed.

(Nawwas-b-Samaan-Muslim).

More detail regarding them follows in the next sign.

Prophet Jesus (as) As a Ruler

The Prophet (s) said, "By him whose hands my life is in, surely the son of Maryam will come down amongst you as a just ruler. He will break the cross, kill the pigs, and abolish the tax. Wealth will be in such abundance that none will care about it and a

single prostration in prayer will be better than the world and all that is in it." (Abu Huraira/Bukhari, Muslim)
The above hadith clearly indicates that when Prophet Jesus (as) returns to the world for the second time he will not reign as a Prophet nor will he bring a new Shariah or Deen, as Islam is the last religion, the Qur`an is the last book to be revealed and our Prophet Muhammad (s) was the last Prophet. There is no Prophet to come after him and the Qur`an has made this fact very clear.

Allah says in the Qur`an, "Muhammad (s) is not the father of any of you but is the Messenger of Allah and the last of the Prophets."
(Surah-Al-Ahzaab)

When Prophet Jesus (as) returns for the second time he will reign as a Khalifh and not a Prophet, follow the Qur`an and Sunnah and rule according to it. He will break the cross the Christians worship (indicating that he will bring Christianity to an end), elevate and spread Islam throughout the world.

He will also kill the pig which the Christians consider Halaal to eat and abolish the Jizya (tax). In Prophet Jesus's (as) reign they will not pay this tax because he will not accept anything but Islam from the non believers and they will all believe in him. The Qur`an says, "There is not a single section of the people of the book (Jews and Christians) but will believe in him and on the Day of Resurrection he will be a witness against them." (Surah-An-Nisa)

Secondly there will be an abundance in wealth, so much so that it will flow like water and there will not remain anybody who could be given this money, thus this tax will be abolished.

Blessings at the time of Prophet Jesus (as)

All types of spiritual and worldly blessings will descend on Earth in his time. Wealth will flow like water, everyone will be independent and have surplus wealth and property to the extent that nobody will be in the need of Zakat and Sadaqa thus receiving of Zakat and Sadaqa will be discarded.

All hearts will be free from misery, envy, malice, and jealousy. Each harmful animal will be made harmless. Camels will graze with the lions and the cheetahs with cattle. A little girl will chase a lion and make it run away from her like children chasing a puppy and this lion will not harm her.

Venom will be taken out from all venomous animals, a little boy will put his hand in a snake's mouth, but it will not harm him. The Jackal will live with the sheep and protect them as if it were a sheep dog. Peace, harmony and tranquillity will prevail in the world.

People will be in complete agreement, wars will cease, the earth will be filled with peace like a silver basin and it will sprout with vegetation like at the time of Prophet Adam (s). The fertility of the land will increase to the extent that if a seed is planted in a rock, it will sprout. 700 mudd of wheat will sprout without ploughing the land. The earth will produce so much fruit that a large group of people will sit to eat a bunch of grapes or a pomegranate and they will be satisfied and use it's peel as an umbrella.

There will also be blessing in milk. The milk of a single she-camel will be sufficient to satisfy the hunger of a large group of people. A cow will produce what is sufficient for a tribe of people, and a sheep will produce milk, which is sufficient for a family of people. Horses will be cheap as they will be never ridden in war and bulls will be expensive, as they will be needed to plough the land.

Life will be very pleasant and enjoyable after his descension and the Muslims will live in comfort in his reign as a Khalifh.

(Nawwas-b-Samaan-Muslim/Abu Umamah-Ibne Majah)

Marriage

Many Ahadith specify that after his descension he will get married and have children and remain on the earth for a period of 19 years after his marriage. (Al-Fitan Nuaim bin Hammad).

Death

Prophet Jesus (as) after his return to the Earth for a second time will live for a period of time (some scholars have mentioned 40 years in the light of a hadith which can be found in Abu Daud) and thereafter will die a natural death. The Muslims will perform his Janaza (funeral prayers) and according to the hadith narrated by Abdullah bin Amr in Mishkat he will be buried next to the Holy Prophet (s).

Was Mirza Ghulam the promised Messiah as he claimed?

Nourished by the British, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad the impostor from Qadian (Northern India) made many ridiculous claims in his lifetime. Besides claiming to be a Prophet and revivalist he also claimed to be the Mahdi and the Promised Messiah though he was nothing but a liar. Thus it was thought necessary to include a short summary which will act as a comparison between Mirza Ghulam and the real Messiah so that no Muslim is misled into believing him.

Mirza Ghulam and the True Messiah

We learn from the Hadith of Nawwas bin Sam'an (R.A), which can be found in Muslim and from the Hadith of Abu Umamah Al-Bahilee (R.A) which can be found in Ibne Maja the following regarding the Promised Messiah: -

1) The Promised Messiah's name is Jesus and his mother's name was Maryam.
2) The Mahdi and the Dajaal will already have appeared before his descension.
3) He will descend from the heavens to the white minaret in the east of Damascus wearing two garments slightly dyed with Saffron and his hands will be placed on the wings of two angels.
4) Every Kaafir who smells his breath will die and his breath will reach as far as he can see.
5) He will kill the Dajaal at the Eastern gate of Ludd.
6) The barbarous tribes of Ya'juj and Ma'juj will appear in his time and the promised Messiah will take the believers to Mount Tur for their protection.
7) He will elevate Islam by breaking the cross, bringing an end to Christianity.
8) The Jews and Christians will believe in him before his death.
9) He will kill the pig that the Christians consider halal to eat and the non- muslims will not have to pay tax.
10) Wars will cease in his time, as everybody will be in complete agreement with one another.
11) There will be so much wealth that the receiving of Sadaqa will be discarded as everybody will have enough wealth of his own.
12) In his time all harmful animals will be made harmless and the venom will be taken out of all venomous animals. A child will put his hand in a snake's mouth and it will not harm him, a little girl will be able to chase a lion away and it will not harm her.

13) The earth will sprout with vegetation and will produce fruit in such abundance that a large group of people will gather to eat a bunch of grapes or a pomegranate and it will suffice them.
14) From the hadith of Abu Harith in Muslim we learn that the Promised Messiah will perform Hajj and Umrah from a place called Rawha.
15) From the Hadith of Abdullah bin Amr we learn that he will be buried next to the Holy Prophet (s).

Mirza Ghulam fulfilled **NONE** of the above conditions. His name was Ghulam Ahmad and not Jesus; he was the son of Chiragh and not Maryam. The Mahdi and the Dajaal did not appear before him and thus there was no question about him killing the Dajaal. He did not descend from the heavens and nor did any Kaafir die from his breath.
The tribes of Ya'juj and Ma'juj did not appear in his time nor did the Jews and Christians believe in him before his death. He did not elevate Islam but insulted it by claiming to be the Mahdi, the Messiah, and a Prophet. He did not kill the pig but enjoyed eating it. Wars did not cease in his time as the Muslims were fighting with the British in India. The receiving of Sadaqa was not discarded nor was the venom taken out of venomous animals in his time. He never performed Hajj or Umrah and he died in a toilet.

I am sure by now you have easily come to the conclusion that Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was not the Promised Messiah but an impostor and a liar, who's aim and purpose in life was to keep the British content.

Ya'juj Ma'juj (Gog and Magog)

The emergence of the mighty tribes of Ya'juj and Ma'juj is also a major sign of Qiyamah.

Allah says in the Qur`an, "When Ya'juj and Ma'juj are let loose (from their Barrier) and they swiftly swarm from every mound"

(Surah Al-Anbiya)

Allah says in the Qur`an, " (Zulqarnain) said, 'This is a mercy from my Lord, but when the promise of my Lord comes, He shall level it down (the barrier) to the ground. And the promise of my Lord is ever true." (Surah Al-Kahf).

Zainab-b-Zahash says: "Once the Prophet (s) awoke from such a sleep that his face was red and these words were on his tongue, "There is none worthy of worship but Allah. Destruction is upon the Arabs on account of that evil which has come close to them. Today a hole as big as this has opened in the wall of Ya'juj and Ma'juj. (The Prophet (s) indicated the size of the hole with his finger and thumb)"

(Bukhari/Muslim)

In the lengthy Hadith of Nawwas-b-Saman it has been mentioned, "And Allah will send Ya'juj and Ma'juj and they will come from every lofty place." (Muslim)

Ya'juj Ma'juj and Zulqarnain

Many thousands of years ago the barbarous tribes of Ya'juj and Ma'juj were imprisoned behind an iron wall built by Zulqarnain. Referred to in the Qur`an in Surah Al-Kahf. Zulqarnain was a Muslim Arab (fath-ul bari) who lived at the time of the Prophet Ibraheem (as) and not Alexander the Great as it is commonly known. From amongst one of the four that ruled the entire world (the other three being Prophet Sulaiman (as), Nimrod & Buktnasr) he was a pious

and just king, provided with all forms of strength through which he was able to carry out his conquests and missions.

Once he carried a mission in three directions, the far west, far east and then in a northerly direction. Travelling first in the westerly direction, he conquered the lands he passed through establishing the laws of Allah there in until he reached the setting of the sun. There he met people that didn't believe in Allah. Given a choice of punishing them for their Kufr or being lenient by inviting them first to Islam; he chose the latter and addressed them, "Those evil-doers who do injustice to themselves by rejecting Allah will be punished by death in this world and in the hereafter, the fire of hell is their abode. As for those who accept the invitation and believe in Allah they will be treated leniently and in the hereafter Jannah is their place of rest."

After the journey towards the west he made preparations for the journey towards the east. Conquering the lands he passed through, establishing the laws of Allah therein. He continued travelling in the easterly direction until he reached the rising of the sun. In this area of the east he saw a nation receiving the sunshine without any obstruction and they were dealt with like the previous people in the west.

After the journey to the east he started his northern Journey, he kept on travelling until he reached the midst of two mountains, it was here he came across a tribe who complained to him about the tribes of Ya'juj and Ma'juj. Ya'juj and Ma'juj inhabited the land behind the mountains, plundered them, committed bloodshed, and then ran away. Observing Zulqarnain's power they asked him to set a barrier in return for a wage for their protection from the disaster and bloodshed, which they often bore at the hands of Ya'juj and Ma'juj. Refusing to accept any wealth he built an iron wall with their help which Ya'juj and Ma'juj could not cross or pierce.

(Qurtubi/ Ibne-Kathir)

The wall of Zulqarnain

Many different opinions have been expressed as to the location of the iron wall of Zulqarnain. Having read many books, the best on the subject I came across was Sheikh Hifzur-Rahman's "Stories of the Qur`an" and thus have chosen to share a brief summary of what he has written.

He writes "The Ya'juj Ma'juj caused destruction and bloodshed in a vast area, and because of their oppression many barriers and walls were erected in different times and places by different kings. Four being the most famous:

1) The Great Wall of China which was built by the Chinese King Fagfor 3460 years after Prophet Adam (as) was put on the Earth.
2) The wall in central Asia near Bukhara and Tirmidh in a place called Derbent.
3) The wall in Dagistan Russia also known as Derbent near the Caspian sea.
4) The wall which is in the westerly direction to the third in the region of the Caucasus.

Because these walls were built for one purpose and are all situated in the North, it has always been very difficult to determine exactly the wall built by Zulqarnain."

He further writes, "The biggest out of the four is the great wall of China and nobody is of the opinion that this is the wall built by Zulqarnain as it is in the easterly direction while the Qur`an indicates the wall of Zulqarnain is in the Northerly direction."

Thus leaving walls 2, 3, and 4.

He writes, "Historians like Masoodi, Istakhari and Hamawi are of the opinion that the wall of Zulqarnain is wall number 3 or 4. Those

that have said it is wall number two have confused the issue due to the location of Derbent which is near Bukhara and also in Dagistan."

He finally writes, "Out of the two, the historians are of the opinion that it is wall 3 or 4, the master of hadith Allama Anwar Shah Kashmiri in his book Aqeeda-tul-Islam holds the opinion that the wall of Zulqarnain is wall number 4, the one in the region of Caucasus.' (Stories of the Qur`an)

After this short summary I find myself inclined to Allama Aloosi's opinion I conclude with his words, "We do not know the location of this wall and it is very probable that great seas and mountains stand between us and this wall, and between Ya'juj Ma'juj and the rest of the world."

Trying to break free

Abu Huraira (RA) narrates that every day Ya'juj and Ma'juj try to break through the wall of Zulqarnain until they reach the end of it to the extent that they can actually see the light on the other side. They then return home saying, "We will break through tomorrow." However, Allah causes the wall to revert to its original thickness and the next day they start all over again. This process continues each day as long as Allah wills for them to remain imprisoned. When Allah wishes for them to be released, then at the end of that day they will say, "If Allah wills, we will break through tomorrow." The next day they will find the wall as they left it the previous day and after breaking through the rest of it they will escape.

(Ahmad, Tirmidhi, Ibne Majah)

Note: some ulama have written that this hadith is weak and has been taken from the Jews as it contradicts with the verse from the Qur`an, "They are not able to cross it or pierce it." (Surah Al-Kahf)

However, if found that it is a Marfoo hadith, it still does not

contradict the Qur`an as the Qur`an is referring to the time Zulqarnain built the wall and secondly the word "naqb" means a complete hole through which they are able to break free. The hadith clearly states that they do not make a complete hole.

The great master of Hadith Ibne Hajr al-Askalani giving reference of Ibne Hibban and Abd- b-Humaid has mentioned this Hadith and not raised any doubt or indicated that this hadith is not Marfoo but positively mentioned that Ibne Arabi has said three miracles are evident from this Hadith and then mentioned the three miracles:

1) It never occurs to these tribes that they must continue work throughout the night. After all, they are in such large numbers that they can easily delegate the work amongst themselves and work in shifts. However, Allah does not allow this thought to occur to them.
2) It does not occur to them that they can merely cross the mountain or scale the wall, which they can do through the aid of equipment they possess in large numbers. According to a narration by Wahb-b-Munabbah it is known that these tribes are agriculturists and artisans possessing various types of equipment.
3) The thought of saying, "Insha-allah (if Allah wills)" never enters their minds and it will only occur to them when Allah wills that they be released. (Fathul-Bari)

Myths

Many myths surround Ya'juj and Ma'juj. One being that the common people believe that Ya'juj and Ma'juj are not human beings but some kind of third being. How interesting it may be to believe that they are a third being, the reality is that they are human beings just like yourself and I, constitute nine-tenths of mankind and are from the progeny of Prophet Nuh (as).

The Holy Prophet (s) said, "Ya'juj and Ma'juj are the children

of Prophet Adam and not one will die until thousand are born to him."
(Abdullah-b-Amr/Fathul-Bari).

The Messenger of Allah said, "Allah divided mankind into ten parts. Nine tenths constitute Ya'juj and Ma'juj while the remaining one tenth constitutes the rest of mankind."
(Abdullah-b-Amr/Fathul-Bari).

Hadrat Abu Saeed Khudri narrates that the Messenger of Allah said, "On the Day of Judgement, Allah will tell Adam to pick out the Jahanamis from his progeny. Adam (as) will ask, "O Allah, who are they?" Allah will say,"999 out of 1000 are Jahanamis while the one is a Jannati." On hearing this the Sahaba over taken by fear asked, "Who will the ONE Jannati be?" The Prophet (s) replied, "Do not grieve the 999 will be Ya'juj Ma'juj while you will be the one Jannati."
(Bukhari/Muslim)

A second myth is that people believe that Ya'juj and Ma'juj were created from Adam (as) without Eve (as) on the basis of Ka'ab's narration, "They are from the children of Adam. That is Adam (as) had a wet dream, the semen intermingled with the earth and they were created from that Earth." (Fathul-Bari)

It should be noted that this narration is very weak and objectionable as it is proven from many Ahadith that the Prophets of Allah do not have wet dreams because the wet dream is from the devil and the Prophets of Allah are protected from the devil.

Secondly there is a hadith which can be found in Fathul-Bari that clearly states that they are from the progeny of Prophet Nuh (as). The Prophet Nuh (as) was definitely from the children of Adam (as) and Eve (as).

Physical Appearance

There are many different narrations regarding their appearance. These different narrations suggest that Ya'juj and Ma'juj are of three types.

1) Some are as tall as the tree Arz - that is 120 ft.
2) Some are four arm lengths tall and four arm lengths wide.
3) Some spread one ear to sleep on and cover themselves with the other.

Some also state that they are two spans tall and the tallest amongst them are three spans. (Fathul-Bari)

It should be noted that all the narrations above are weak and should not be taken. The authentic Ahadith like the Hadith of Nawwas-b-Saman in Muslim suggests that they are very strong and powerful people whom nobody has the power to fight. It has also been narrated that they have wide faces, small eyes, grey hair and their faces are like shields covered with skin. (Musnad Ahmad)

Emergence of Ya'juj and Ma'juj before Qiyamah

A short period after killing the Dajaal, Prophet Jesus (as) will be informed of the release of Ya'juj and Ma'juj. Obeying Allah's command He (As) will take the Muslims to Mount Tur for their protection as nobody will be able to kill the Ya'juj Ma'juj. Ya'juj and Ma'juj will come forth from every lofty place causing destruction and bloodshed wherever they go. Their first batch will come to lake Tiberias and drink all of its water. Their last batch will come to it and say, "There was once water in this lake."

Marching on, carrying out pillage and murder to their left and right they will come to mount of Khamr (a mountain in Jerusalem)

and say, “We have killed the inhabitants of the Earth, let us now kill the inhabitants of heaven.” Thus they will shoot their arrows towards the sky. Allah will return their arrows covered with blood and these fools will think they have killed those in the heaven. Meanwhile Prophet Jesus (as) and his companions will remain confined until the head of an ox becomes more valuable than 100 gold coins. Prophet Jesus (as) and his companions will pray for their destruction. Allah, answering their prayer will send insects upon their necks and in the morning they will be found dead like one dead man. In the narration of Abu Saeed al- Khudri which can be found in Tadkhira of Imam Qurtubi, it has been mentioned; the believers not being able to hear their noise that morning will say “Will anybody sacrifice his life and see what the situation is.” Volunteering, a believer will come down the mountain thinking that he will never return. However to his surprise he will find that they are all dead and he will shout, “Good news! Your enemy has died.”

Prophet Jesus (as) and his companions will come down but will find that the earth is full with their stinking corpses. Yet again Prophet Jesus (as) and his companions will turn to Allah and pray. Allah will send birds with necks like the necks of Bactarian camels which will carry the corpses and throw them where Allah wishes. Thereafter Allah will send rain and the earth will be cleansed.

(Nawwas-b-Samaan/Muslim)

Landslides

There will be three landslides before Qiyamah like never seen before. One in the East, one in the West and one in Arabia. The Earth will swallow everything above it and as a result, many people will die. However, everybody will be raised according to his intentions. This will take place when evil prevails.

Hudhaifa-b-Usaid al-Ghifari reported: Allah's Messenger (May peace be upon him) came to us all of a sudden as we were (busy in discussion) He said: "What are you discussing?" They (the companions) said: "We are talking about the last hour." Thereupon he said: "It will not come until you see ten signs before it, He made a mention of the Smoke, the Dajaal, the Beast, the Rising of the Sun from the West, the Descent of Jesus, Son of Mary (Allah be pleased with him), the emergence of Ya'juj and Ma'juj, and Land-sliding will occur in three places, One in the East, one in the West and one in Arabia at the end of which a fire would burn forth from Yemen, which would drive people to the place of their assembly."

(Muslim)

Umme Salmah reported that I heard the Messenger of Allah saying, "After me there will be a landslide in the East, a landslide in the West and a landslide in the Peninsula Of Arabia." I asked, "Oh Messenger of Allah will the Earth give way, though there are some pious people above it." The Prophet (s) replied, "When its inhabitants exceed doing bad and evil." (Tabrani Fil-Awsat)

The Smoke

Allah says, "So thou wait for the day when the heaven shall bring a smoke manifest surrounding the people this is a painful chastisement." (Surah -Dhukan)

Wasila-b-al-Asqa reported, "I heard the Prophet saying, "The final hour will not come until you see ten signs." (One of the ten mentioned was the smoke) (Al-Mustadrak)

Abu Huraira reported that the Messenger of Allah (s) said, "Hasten to do good deeds before six things."(One of the six mentioned was the smoke) (Muslim)

It is clearly evident from the above verse and Ahadith that the smoke is a major sign of Qiyamah. It will rise and cover the whole world.The smoke will affect both the believers and the non-believers alike remaining for a period of 40 days and nights. The believers will be affected a little as if suffering from a cold while the smoke will enter the brains of the non-believers and make them unconscious[1].

Footnote:

1) Hudaifa-b-al-Yaman/Tabari.

Ibne Masood's Opinion

Ibne Masood's (RA) opinion regarding the verse in which the smoke has been mentioned is that he strongly claims that this is **not the smoke which is described as one of the signs of Qiyamah. On the other hand the Holy Prophet being disgusted with the vexation and rebellion of the Quraish had invoked a famine of 7 years for them like that which was set upon the Egyptians in the days of Prophet Yusuf (as) and as such the famine befell them to the starva-**tion of the Makkans, who were so much constrained that they were forced to eat off corpses, hides and skins of animals.

In short, the people of Makkah began to starve. As a rule in intense hunger and ceaseless drought, a kind of smoke is seen in the **space between the heaven and the Earth, and also the dust, which rises into the sky from the Earth especially on long rainless days, looks like a smoke to the naked eyes. That thing is here described as a smoke.**
(Bukhari)

Ibne Masood reported, "Five things have passed, the smoke, the defeat of the Romans, the splitting of the moon, the defeat of the infidels in the Battle of Badr and the punishment." (Bukhari)

Firstly it should be noted that Ibne Kathir writes that from amongst the Sahaba Ibne Masood is the only one that holds this view. The majority of Ulama in the light of the above and many other Ahadith are of the opinion that the smoke referred to in the verse is the same which is to precede Qiyamah. This has also been related as being the opinion of Ibne Abbas and Hadrat Ali.

(Ibne Kathir)

Ali (RA) said, "The verse of Dukhan has not taken place"

(Ibne Abe Hatim)

Ibne Abbas, Ibne Umar, Hasan, and others said, "The smoke referred to in the verse is the smoke before Qiyamah which will enter in the ears of the Kuffar and the hypocrites and will affect the Muslims like a cold. The whole world will be like a house on fire. It has not happened. It is to happen." (Lawami-ul-Anwaar)

Abdullah-b-Abu-Mulaika narrated that I went one morning to Ibne Abbas. He said, "I didn't sleep all night." I asked, "Why?" He replied, "They informed me that a star with a tail appeared. I feared that the smoke may follow and thus I didn't sleep till it was morning." (Tabari / Ibne Kathir)

It is clear from the above narration, which is authentic, as Ibne Kathir has mentioned that Ibne Abbas was of the opinion that the smoke is from amongst the awaited signs. (Ibne Kathir)

Secondly Ibne Kathir writes that Ibne Masood doesn't relate what he has said back to the Prophet (s) while the opinion that the smoke is from amongst the awaited signs is related back to the Prophet (s). And so the Principal of the Hadith is quite clear, "That which is related back to the Prophet is given priority over that which is not." (An-Nihaya)

Rising of the Sun from the West

The rising of the sun from the west is also a major sign of Qiyamah proven by the Qur`an and Sunnah.

**Allah says in the Qur`an,** "The day when some signs of your **Lord will come, no good will it** do to a person to believe then, if he **believed not before, nor earned** good (by performing deeds of righteousness) **through his faith."** (Surah Al-An`aam)

The verse is referring to the rising of the sun from the west, as is the opinion of the majority of the commentators.

(Tabari/Ibne Kathir)

Imam Tabari, after mentioning the different opinions of the commentators writes, "The most correct opinion in regards to the meaning of this verse is that what is apparent from the reports narrated from the Prophet (s) that he said (s), "(Imaan will be of no benefit) when the sun rises from the west." (Tabari)

Abu Huraira reported that the Holy Prophet (s) said, "Hasten to do good deeds before six (things happen) :Rising of the sun from the west." (Mishkat)

Where the Sun goes

It is narrated on the authority of Abu Zar that the Messenger of Allah (s) one day said, "Do you know where the Sun goes?" They replied, "Allah and his apostle know best." He (The Holy Prophet) observed, "Verily it (the sun) glides till it reaches its resting place under the throne. Then it falls prostrate and remains there until it is told, 'Rise up and go to the place whence you came' and it goes **back."**

Then it continues emerging out from its rising place and then glides till it reaches its place of rest under the throne where it falls prostrate

and remains in that state until it is told, 'Rise up and return to the place whence you came.' And it returns and emerges out of it's rising place and then it glides (in such a normal way) that the people do not discern anything (unusual in it) till it reaches its resting place under the throne. Then it would be said to it, 'Rise up and emerge from the place of your setting,' and it will rise from the place of its setting." The Messenger of Allah (s) said "Do you know when it will happen? It will happen at the time when faith will not benefit anyone who has not previously believed or has derived no good from the faith." (Muslim)

Worshippers during the night will remain till the sun rises from the West

Abdullah-b-Abu-Owfa reported that I heard the Messenger of Allah say, "Verily a night will come upon the people which is equivalent of three of your nights. When it comes those that engage themselves in worship during the night will recognise it. One of them will stand in prayer, read his Hizb (The normal amount he has made the habit of reading) and then go to sleep. There after he will wake up (for the second time) read his Hizb in prayer and go to sleep. While this is the situation the people will begin to shout, scream and call one another. They will say, "What's this?" With fear they will run to the mosque. To their surprise they will see that the sun has risen from the west. When it reaches the middle of the sky it will return and set in the west." He said (s), "That is when Imaan will not benefit anyone (who brings faith after seeing the sign)." (An-Nihaya)

Everyone will bring faith in seeing the sign

Narrated by Abu Huraira (R.A), "Allah's Messenger (s) said, 'The hour will not come until the sun rises from the west; and when the people see it, then whoever will be living on the surface of the Earth will have faith, and that is (the time) when no good will it do to a person to believe then, if he believed not before." (Bukhari)

The real basis of faith is that man believes in the unseen realities on the authority of the Messenger of Allah. But when Allah manifests such startling and visible signs which herald the approach of the last hour and by which the veil of the unseen is rent asunder, then the belief becomes meaningless. The rising of the sun from the west will be of great disturbance to nature and will shake the mind of every man and awaken him to see for himself the great power of Allah. At this time the belief of the unseen will lose its importance.

Door of Repentance Closed

Once the sun has risen from the west the door of repentance will be closed and will remain closed until the Day of Judgement. If any infidel embraces Islam or any Muslim repents and seeks forgiveness for his sins any time after the rising of the sun from the west till the Day of Judgement, it will not be accepted.

The Messenger of Allah (s) said, "Verily Allah extends his hand at night so that the sinners of the day may repent and verily extends his hand during the day so that the sinners of the night may repent. (He will keep on doing this) as long as the sun does not rise from the west." (Abu-Musa al-Ashari/ Muslim)

The Prophet (s) said, "Allah has built a door of repentance in the west the breadth of which is seventy years and it will not close as long as the sun does not rise from the west."

(Safwan-b-Assal / Tirmidhi)

The above Ahadith have clearly specified that the extreme limit of the acceptance of repentance is till the sun rises from the west. Once it has risen it will not be accepted.

Ibne Hajar has mentioned many Ahadith which prove that the door of repentance will remain closed till the Day of Judgement and thereafter writes, "These narrations give strength to one another, agreeing completely in that when the sun rises from the west the door of repentance will be closed and will not be opened thereafter. And this is not specific with that day but will prolong till the Day of Judgement." (Fathul-Bari)

The Beast

The Beast is also a major sign of Qiyamah. Allah says in the Qur`an, "And when the word is fulfilled concerning them. We shall bring forth a Beast of the Earth to speak unto them because mankind had no faith in our revelation." (Surah An-Naml)

Abdullah-b-Umar said, "I memorised a Hadith from the Messenger of Allah (s) which I have not forgotten. I heard the Messenger of Allah (s) saying, 'The first of the signs that will come is the rising of the sun from the place of its setting and the emergence of the Beast upon the people. Whichever of these two occurs before the other then the other is right behind it." (Muslim)

Commentating on the above verse Ibne Kathir has said that the beast will appear very near the end of time. When disintegration, corruption, kufr and evil prevail, commands of Allah are ignored, the Deen changed and made a mockery of, it is then Allah will take out the Beast from the earth. (Ibne Kathir)

Imam Hakim in the light of the above Hadith has said that the rising of the sun from the west will take place before the emergence of the Beast. The Beast will appear on the same day the sun has risen from the west or very soon thereafter. Ibne Hajar after quoting Imam Hakim mentions, "The wisdom in the Beast appearing after the sun has risen from the west is that the door of repentance will close at the time the sun rises from the west. Thus the Beast will emerge to distinguish the believers from the non-believers completing the aim of closing the door of repentance." (Fathul-Bari)

Task

The task of the Beast will be to distinguish the believers from the non-believers, with Prophet Moosa's (as) staff it will draw a line

on the forehead of every believer whereby his face will become bright and luminous and with the ring of Sulaiman (As) it will seal the nose of every non-believer where by his whole face will become black. Thus there will be complete distinction between the Muslim and non-Muslim, so that if many parties sit at a dinner table, the Muslim and non-Muslim will be distinguished.

(Abu Huraira-Musnad Ahmad/Tirmidhi)

The Beast will also talk to people. It will say, "Mankind had no faith in our revelations." (Ibne Kathir)

Place of emergence

Many opinions have been expressed as regards to the place the Beast will come out from. A few are listed:

1) It will come out from Al-Masjid Al-Haraam in Makkah. This opinion is based on the hadith reported by Tabrani on the authority of Hudhaifa-b-Usaid.
2) It will come out three times, from some desert and then go back into hiding, then from some village and finally from Al-Masjid Al-Haraam.

   There are many other opinions most of them report that it will come out from the Haram of Makkah.

(See Tadkirah and Al-Isha'ah)

Nature of the Beast

Many different opinions have been expressed as to the nature of the Beast and the type of animal it is. A few are shared and explained.

1) Some Ulama are of the opinion that the Beast to come before the end of time is the very animal which has been mentioned in the Hadith of Fatimah-b-Qais. Known as the Jassasa (spy) seen by Tamim Dari and his companions from the tribes of Lakhm and Juzaam on the same Island as the Dajaal. This is related of being the

opinion of the Sahabi Abdullah-b-Amr-b-al-Aas.
(Nawawee's commentary on Muslim)

Fatimah-bin-Qais reported, "I heard the proclaimer of the Messenger of Allah proclaiming (for) 'Congregational Prayer'. I came out of the mosque and prayed with the Prophet. When he finished his prayer, he sat upon the pulpit smiling and said, 'Let every man remain in his seat.' Then he said, 'Do you know why I have called you together?' They replied, 'Allah and his Messenger know best.' He said, 'By Allah, I have not called you together for hope or for fear, but I have called you together because Tamim Dari a Christian came and embraced Islam. He narrated a story to me which agreed with the account I have given to you about the Dajaal (Anti-Christ). He informed me that he had embarked upon a sea-boat with thirty men of Lakhm and Jozam. Then the sea waves played with them for a month and threw them onto an island when the sun was about to set. They sat in a small side boat and entered the Island. A beast with very coarse hair met them. They could not tell its front from its back due to its excessive hair. They asked, 'Woe to thee! Who art thou?" It replied, 'I am a spy. Go to the man in the monastery, as he is eager to have your information.' He said, 'When it named a man for us, we fled away from it lest it might be the devil.' We hurriedly went on till we entered the monastery and found a big-bodied man whom we did never see before. He was firmly tied up, his hands tied to his neck, the place between his knees, and joints tied up with iron chains." (Muslim)

Camel

2) Some scholars are of the opinion that it is the young of the she-camel of the Prophet Salih (as). Imam Al-Qurtubi holds the same opinion, he writes in his commentary of the Qur`an, "The first opinion (regarding the Beast) is that it is the young of the she-camel of the Prophet Salih(s). This is the most correct view and opinion. Allah knows best."

Opinion Explained

The people of Thamud were Arabs who lived a couple of hundred years after the Prophet Noah (as) in a place called Hijr which today is known as Madaain Salih in the North of Arabia near Tabuk. Blessed in provisions and livelihoods their land was fertile with green gardens and running springs and they skilfully carved spacious houses out of mountains. They were ungrateful to Allah as they worshiped the stone idols they carved with their very own hands. Thus Allah honoured Salih from amongst them with Prophet-hood and sent him as a Messenger to the people of Thamud to bring them out of darkness into light. Salih (as) conveyed the message of Allah day and night and called them to the worship of Allah with wisdom and kind-heartedness but the people of Thamud decided to remain blind.

Finally, they like the communities before them asked to see a miracle. They said, ' O Salih take out a ten month pregnant she-camel from a mountain which then gives birth to a young that has the same body and stature as the mother.' Having seen the miracle they refused to believe. The she-camel was a sign of Allah, very large and unusual in form and the people were warned that they would be destroyed if they treated it with evil. All the other animals were afraid of Prophet Salih's camel and would run away whenever she and its young came to drink water. Thus bounds were arranged. However, after a very short period they broke the agreement and decided to kill the camel of Allah. A group hid waiting for the camel on its return from the well with its child. Shooting an arrow they injured it and finally killed it paving the way for the destruction of the entire community. On seeing its mother in trouble the child fled to the mountains and disappeared. This young is referred to in the second opinion.

Extraordinary Animal

3) Some are of the opinion that the Beast to come is an animal that has features of many different animals. The same is reported from Abu Zubair. Describing the Beast he has reported that, "Its head is

like that of a bull, eyes like that of a pig, ears like that of an elephant, horns like that of a stag, neck like that of an ostrich, chest like a lion, colour like that of a tiger, flanks like that of a cat, tail like that of a ram, feet and legs like that of a camel and a distance of 12 cubits between every two joints." (Tadhkirah)

Snake

Some scholars are of the opinion it is the Snake which guarded the Holy Ka'bah. Imam Al-Qurtubi relates this as being the opinion of Ibne Abbas. (Al-Qurtubi)

Opinion Explained

Obeying Allah's command the Prophet Ibraheem (as) with the help of his son Ismail (as) built the Holy Ka'bah. He dug a well inside the Holy Ka'bah which was to the right of who entered it and acted as a safe to all the gifts that were presented to the Ka'bah which were kept inside it. At the time of Jurhum the gold and silver were stolen many times from the Ka'bah thus the tribe of Jurhum decided to choose a man amongst them to keep guard. Unfortunately, one day the guard himself decided to steal the gifts of the Ka'bah. Taking the opportunity as it came he climbed down the well and began to gather what he could in a piece of cloth. While he was busy Allah sent a stone on him, which closed the well and thus he was unable to escape. From that day Allah sent a snake to guard the Ka'bah. The snake lived in the well guarding the gifts of the Ka'bah for over 500 years. Exposed to the wearing factors of nature the walls of the Ka'bah at the time of Quraish (slightly before the time Prophet (s) received Prophet-hood) had become weak and part of the covering had also burnt, thus the Quraish decided to rebuild the Ka'bah. However, the snake prevented them from demolishing the Holy Ka'bah every time they tried. Finally they stood at the Place of Ibrahim (as) and prayed, "Oh Allah if you are happy in its rebuilding then make it possible and take care of this snake." Allah sent an eagle which took the snake towards Ajyaad. This snake is referred to

in the fourth opinion. (Tarikh-Makka)

Many other opinions have been expressed as regards to the nature of the Beast. However, finding myself inclined towards Abu Amr Uthman Ibne Sa`d al-Mukri ad-Dani`s opinion I conclude with his words, "There are many narrations in regards to the physical description, length, and nature of the Beast but most of these are Mawqoof on the Sahaba or those after them. As for those that are Marfoo only a few are sound thus we cannot assert anything in regard of its description and nature except that which is proven from the authentic Marfoo narrations and that it is a huge creature that will come out from the Earth, a beast other than man, nobody will be able to escape it. It will stamp the Muslim by writing 'believer' between his eyes, and stamp the non-Muslim by writing Kafir between his eyes." (As-Sunan Al-Waridah Fil-Fitan)

The Fire

The last major sign to appear before the Day of Judgement is the fire which will come out from the Yemen and gather the people in the place of their assembly.

In the Hadith of Hudaifa-b-Usaid regarding the Major signs the Prophet (s) said, "At the end of which a fire would burn out from Yemen and would drive people to the place of their assembly."

(Muslim)

Narrated by Abu Huraira (R.A) the Prophet (s) said, "The people will be gathered in three ways:

1.The first way will be of those who will wish or have a hope (for paradise) and will have a fear (of punishment).

2.The second batch will be those who will gather riding, two on a camel or three on a camel or ten on a camel.

3.The third batch will be the rest of the people who will be urged to gather by the fire which will accompany them at the time of their afternoon nap and stay with them where they will spend the night, and will be with them in the morning wherever they may be then, and will be with them in the afternoon wherever they may be then. (Bukhari)

Bibliography

Bukhari *Muhammad Ibne Ismael*
Muslim *Muslim Ibne al-Hajaj*
Tirmidhi *Abu Isa Muhammad Ibne Isa*
Nasai *Abu Abdurrahman Ahmed Ibne Ali*
Abu Daud *Abu Sulaiman Ibne al-Ashath*
Ibne Majah *Abu Abdullah Muhammad Ibne Yazid*
Sahih Ibne Khuzaimah *Muhammad Ibne Ishaq*
Al-Mustadrak *Abu Abdullah al Hakim*
Kanzul-Ummal *Ali Muttaqi al-Hindi*
Musnad Ahmad *Ahmad Ibne Hanbal*
Mishkat *Muhammad Ibne Abdullah at-Tabrezi*
Tabrani *Abul Qasim Sulaiman Ibne Ahmad*
Baihaqi *Ahmad Ibne al- Husayn*
Darequtni *Abul Hasan Ali Ibne Umar*
Al- Fathurrabbani *Ahmad Abdurrahman al-Bannah*
An- Nihaya *Ibne Kathir*
Al- Fitan *Nuaaim Ibne Hammad*
Al- Isha`ah *Sharif Muhammad Ibne Rasul*
Al- Iza`ah *Muhammad Sadeeq Hasan*
Itihaful Jama`ah *Hamood Ibne Abdullah at-Tuwejri*
Al-Bidayah Wan- Nihayah *Ibne Kathir*
At-Tadhkirah *Imam al- Qurtubi*
Tafseer *Imam Ibne Kathir*
Tafseer *Imam al -Qurtubi*
Tafseer *Imam Tabari*
Sharh of Muslim *Imam Nawwavi*
Fathul Bari *Ibne Hajar*
Qassasul Qura`n *Sheikh Hifzurrahman*
Ashratus-Sa`ah *Yusuf Ibne Abdullah Ibne Yusuf*
Tarikh Makkah *Abu Abdullah Muhammad Ibne Ishaq al-Fakihi*
Akhbar Makkah *Abul-Waleed Muhammad Ibne Abdullah al-Azruqi*
As-Sunan Al-Waridah Fil-Fitan *Abu Amr Uthman Ibne Sa`d al-Muqri*

Published By

Hudhayfah Ibn Usayd al Ghifari رضي الله عنه Narrates :

Allah's Prophet ﷺ suddenly
came to us whilst we were talking.
He asked "What are you discussing?" We
replied "We are talking about the Last Hour."
He said "It will never come to pass until
you see Ten Signs previous to it." He then
mentioned the Smoke, the Dajaal, the Beast,
the Rising of the Sun from the West, the
Descent of Jesus عليه السلام son of Mary, the Ya'juj
and Ma'juj, the Three Landslides, one in the
East, one in the West and one in Arabia and of
the Fire which would burn forth from the Yemen
and would drive the people to their place
of gathering.

SAHIH MUSLIM

AL MA'HADUL ISLAMI-ISLAMIC ACADEMY
40 GREAVES STREET
BRADFORD BD5 7PE
01274 575600

£2